



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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May Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

May 1 10:45 a.m. “Neighborhood Characters”

A 30-minute, easy morning walk in the cactus garden will bring you face to thorns with plants that may remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise. If weather is hot, we'll stick to viewing the Family Album, with an indoor program on the same topic. ***This program will also be offered May 2, 8, 9, 16, 23, and 30.***

May 1 2:15 p.m. “The CCC and its impact on Saguaro National Park” *Illustrated Talk*

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on National, State, and County parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photo images and movie clips. ***This program will also be offered May 8, 22, and 29. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 4 2:15 p.m. “Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert” *Illustrated Talk*

Learn about the natural history, behaviors and fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the Roadrunner. ***This program will also be offered May 11, 18, and 25. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 6 2:15 p.m. “Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat” *Illustrated Talk + 50 yard Walk*

For all of life, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts” is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world. ***This program will also be offered May 13, 20, and 27.***

May 8 11:45 a.m. “Tarantula” *Patio Talk*

They look big, hairy, and scary, but they're really just big (8 legged) pussycats! Come meet a live tarantula and learn more about this fascinating desert creature. ***This program will also be offered May 22 and 29. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 21 5:00 p.m. “Twilight” Hike

Enjoy the desert as the sun goes down. This 2-mile, 2-hour hike takes place in a sandy wash. A couple of rock outcroppings are easily traversed. The return is along a rocky, old mining road as the sun sets. *Reservations are required*, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

May 22 3:00 p.m. “Venomous & Poisonous Animals of Arizona” *PowerPoint Presentation*

Venomous? Poisonous? What's the difference? Join guest speaker Sandy Reith and learn about the biology and adaptations of some of Arizona's amazing creatures including rattlesnakes, scorpions, and Gila monsters during. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

May 27 7:30 p.m. “Moonrise Over the Mountains” 45 minute Patio Talk
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

May 1 11:00 a.m. “Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage”
This 20-minute presentation shown in the visitor center auditorium explores the peoples who settled this area, from prehistoric Hohokam to homesteaders and Hispanic ranchers. ***This program is offered Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 2 11:00 a.m. “People and Places of Saguaro’s Past”
Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park’s historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. ***This program will also be offered May 9, 16, 23 and 30. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 2 3:00 p.m. “Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?”
What will the world’s changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. ***This program will also be offered May 9, 16, 23 and 30. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

May 7 & 21 7:00 p.m. “Night Walk” 1 mile, 2 hours
Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, *Reservations are required*, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

May 13 7:00 p.m. “Desert Holes”
From tarantulas to desert tortoises, many desert dwellers choose an underground abode. Join naturalist and author Pinau Merlin in the visitor center auditorium as she explores who makes those holes in the desert and why. Advanced reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 733-5153. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Daily Programs

The park’s two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu
www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org

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